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## SPECIAL DAHLIA OFFERS

These bargain offers are made especially for beginners to introduce our pot-grown field ripened Dahlia roots. Here you have the opportunity of obtaining a choice collection of varieties at greatly reduced prices. All Dahlia roots are carefully selected and labeled true to name. No two alike. Each of these collections have 12 guaranteed roots of large Dahlias, carefully balanced as to color and from varieties that can be found in our catalogue. The collections are: \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 each. Half collections, 1/2 price.

These offers are real bargains and are sent to you by insured prepaid Parcel Post. A fine gift for a garden loving friend.

## CULTURE OF DAHLIAS

Dahlias are easily grown, requiring no special soil, or treatment to bring them to perfection. They love an open sunny location, but succeed in partial shade. Prepare the soil thoroughly by digging 12 to 18 inches deep, if possible in the fall, and then again in the spring, before planting.

If your soil is poor, work in some well rotted stable manure, or artificial fertilizer, but don't overdo this.

Dig the holes 3 feet apart and about 6 inches deep. Drive a stout stake in each hole and place roots close to the stake, eyes showing upward, and cover with two or three inches of fine soil, leaving the hole to be filled after the plant comes up.

When Dahlias are to be planted close together for effect, we would suggest the following color arrangements: One section containing the salmon pinks, rich yellows and brilliant red shades. The other group—the pure whites, lavender pinks, purples and primrose colors. A few cream and similar light shades should be scattered in both groups, so as to furnish a setting for the darker colors.

Plant any time between April 1st and June 15th. When the plants have made their third set of leaves, cut out the top to make them branch. The most important thing from now on is hoeing and cultivating the soil, until the buds appear. Then give the beds a good mulching of manure, to keep the ground moist and water the plants thoroughly once or twice a week.

If thrips appear, spray with a nicotine solution. It should be done four times at intervals of four days; after which, the plants can be kept clean by spraying them with a strong pressure of water through the garden hose. Some good growers, soon as the shoots come through, spray every week to be sure to keep them away.

Mildew is usually caused by sudden extremes in the temperatures or extremes in wet and dry soils, or from growing plants too close together. Dahlias like air and sunshine. The remedy for mildew is to dust freely with flower of sulphur in the morning while the dew is still on the leaves.

Red spider can never appear if overhead watering is practiced. When it does come, flower of sulphur is the remedy. Many of the best Dahlia growers sprinkle their Dahlia plants nearly every night in hot weather to keep all insect pests away, but do not sprinkle after October 1st.

To have large blooms it is absolutely necessary to disbud, leaving only one bud to each shoot. But, when cutting the flowers, be sure to leave two young sprouts near the base of each stem, so as to insure a new crop of blooms. Dahlias will continue to bloom until the frost kills the tops. Then dig the roots and store them in a dry cellar or basement, cover them with dry sand, soil or sawdust, to keep them from shriveling. Divide the roots in the spring after the eyes show plainly, being careful that each root division has an eye. Cover them again and keep dry until planted.

**HOW TO KEEP CUT BLOOMS OF DAHLIAS.** Cut the flowers in the evening if possible, and before the pollen has too well developed. Burn the ends of the stems on a gas flame; or better still, for exhibition purposes, dip ends of stems in boiling water for about 12 seconds and immediately plunge in fresh cold water. Leave in cool place or out of doors for the night.

Should Dahlias be picked in the day time, put the stems in a pitcher containing three inches of boiling water and leave there for 15 minutes. Then remove to a deep vase of fresh, cold water. The less foliage the better. Wilted flowers may often be revived in the same manner.

We invite inquiries from beginners relating to the culture of Dahlias. What experience we have gained as commercial growers in the past twenty years is at your service. We will appreciate your order and please remember that everything you purchase from us is guaranteed to give absolute satisfaction.

## **KEY ROUTE HTS. NURSERY CO.**

**3852 LOMA VISTA AVENUE  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, U. S. A.**



LIMITED SPACE only permits us to print a few excerpts of the many letters we receive yearly from satisfied customers throughout the country.

Wheeling, West Virginia.

This was my first season to try your pot-grown Dahlia roots and to say they were satisfactory is putting it mildly. In every way they were the best stock I have in my plot this year.

"T. A. C."

Hailey, Idaho.

I received the Dahlia plants a few days ago and they came through in wonderful condition. I am more than pleased with all the Dahlia plants and roots that I have bought from your house in the last two years.

"F. W. W."

Clayton, Missouri.

It is with pleasure that I thank you for shipment of roots received. The lot arrived in excellent condition. You may rest assured we will remember you on future orders. "M. W. F. Co."

Auburn, Rhode Island.

Dahlia plants received. They were on the way just five days. I wish to say that it would be almost impossible to procure as good plants, or have them as well packed.

"W. S."

Detroit, Michigan.

The Dahlia roots I received from you arrived in excellent condition, I am well pleased with the quality of the shipment. I can certainly recommend you to any prospective buyers. And I also want to thank you very kindly for the extras.

"R. J. W."